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From: Schmit, Ayn
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 4:23:12 PM
Subject: FW: [WQ News] Mine near Keystone; considered most polluted in state

A little more balanced reporting than some...

From: wq-news@googlegroups.com [mailto:wq-news@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Loretta Lohman
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 7:46 PM
To: west-slope@googlegroups.com; wQ-news@googlegroups.com
Subject: [WQ News] Mine near Keystone; considered most polluted in state

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/>

Mine near Keystone; considered most polluted in state



Lindsay Watts

6:44 PM, Aug 11, 2015

[colorado](#) | [epa](#) | [mining](#) | [gold king mine](#) | [pennsylvania mine](#)









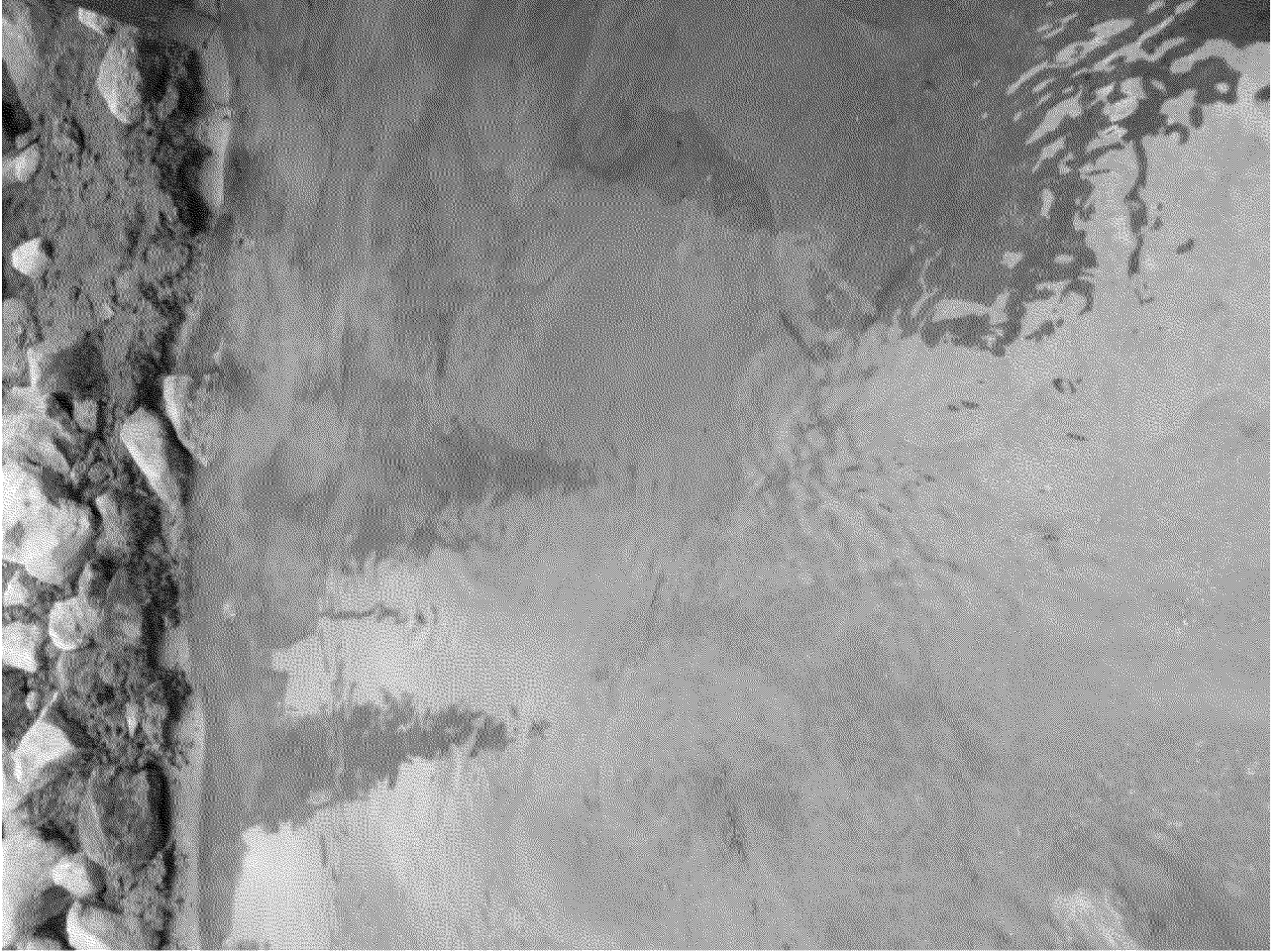














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SUMMIT CO., Colo. - Nearly a week after the Environmental Protection Agency caused a 3 million gallon water spill near from a mine near Durango, the EPA and Colorado mining officials led a tour of another dangerous former mining site, the Pennsylvania Mine near Keystone, considered the worst mine for pollution in the state.

"I was hoping to get more insight about how (the spill near Durango) occurred, and if it was possible that something like that might happen here in our county," said Elizabeth Staub, a resident who joined the tour.

Discharge from the Pennsylvania Mine has long polluted Peru Creek, killing off all fish, bugs and plants. The Snake River is also devoid of fish between the creek and Keystone.

"At this point, it doesn't appear to be a human health hazard," said Jeff Graves with the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety,

The state and EPA have been working on cleaning up the site for years. This summer, a concrete

plug was installed to staunch dirty water and workers will soon put in a second plug. It's work similar to what was being done at the Gold King Mine in Silverton where the accident happened.

"These are inherently unsafe, unstable environments," said Paul Peronard, with the EPA. "We're trying to bring order to chaos to. It's sort of naive to think you can always do that without having chaos happen to you."

7NEWS asked what he would say to a distrustful public after such a massive failure in Silverton.

"I can't talk about Silverton directly because I wasn't on that project, but I know the guys working down there," Peronard said. "Top notch. From the state and from the EPA. They were taking care, caution much like they did here, using the sets of tools and procedures we all use. It wasn't a matter of people rushing through work, it wasn't a matter of incompetency. These are inherently risky situations. We struggled our first couple years here controlling and managing the water. It's always a battle."

Officials said work at the Pennsylvania Mine could be largely completed by next year. While there's little hope for life in Peru Creek, the goal is to restore aquatic life in the Snake River.

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